

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 EB-11

AGR-20 FEA-02 ACDA-19 /201 W
----- 004274

R 060900Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7060

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1392

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AF, IN

SUBJ: INDO-AFGHAN RELATIONS: NAIM VISIT

REF: NEW DELHI 2996

1. I RAISED SUBJECT OF NAIM'S LATEST VISIT TO INDIA WITH
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAHID ABDULLAH MARCH 4. HE SAID ECONOMIC
MATTERS HAD BEEN REVIEWED, AND MENTIONED THAT A GOOD DEAL
OF DISCUSSION HAS BEEN GOING ON ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF
JOINT AFGHAN-INDIAN DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL GAS DEPOSITS IN
AFGHANISTAN FOR USE IN FERTILIZER PRODUCTION. POSSIBILITY OF
THE SOVIET UNION BECOMING INVOLVED IN THIS NOW BILATERAL
CONSIDERATION WAS MENTIONED AS SOMETHING NEITHER INDIANS NOR
AFGHANS WOULD OBJECT TO. ABDULLAH WAS NOT CLEAR IN HIS REMARKS
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WHETHER AREA UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS SOVIET OPERATED AND

PRODUCING GAS FIELDS AND SOVIET BUILT FERTILIZER PLANT IN THE NORTH, OR PROSPECTIVE AREAS FOR GAS EXPLORATION IN SOUTH EASTERN REGION. FYI: WE CONSIDER LATTER AS THE ONLY LIKELY AREA FOR JOINT OR TRIPARTITE EXPLOITATION OF THE TYPE EVIDENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION. END FYI. MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES ABDUL QAYUM (WARDAK) WILL GO TO NEW DELHI ON MARCH 25 FOR NEXT MEETING OF JOINT INDIAN-AFGHAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION, AND PRESUNABLY THIS ISSUE WILL BE RAISED AGAIN ON A TECHNICAL, WORKING LEVEL.

2. ABDULLAH COMMENTED THAT THE INDIAN MILITARY DELEGATION WHICH ARRIVED MARCH 4 HAD BEEN ARRANGED FOR LONG AGO AND WOULD BE CONSIDERING TRAINING OF AFGHAN PERSONNEL BOTH IN INDIA AND IN AFGHANISTAN. THE DELEGATION IS HEADED BY GENERAL S.L. MENESIS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE INDIAN ARMY. ABDULLAH NOTED THAT THE INDIANS WOULD BE PROVIDING SOME ALTERNATIVE TO AFGHANISTAN'S ALMOST TOTAL RELIANCE ON THE SOVIET UNION FOR MILITARY TRAINING.

3. ABDULLAH ALSO SAID THAT IN THEIR TALKS MRS. GANDHI AND NAIM HAD AGREED "ON THE NEED FOR PEACE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD."
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